

Message Text

SECRET

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

ACDA-07 /077 W

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P R 291626Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TOHNUEHC/SECSTATE WASHWN PRIORITY 9798

INFO RUQMKVXAMEMBASSY AGMAN 1936

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LJUQMAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1706

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 6572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: SYRIAN CONVICTION THAT FATAH BEHIND SEMIRAMIS ATTACK

1. ACCORDING LIBYAN AMBASSADOR BEN KHAYAL, HIGHLY PLACED OPSYRIAN SECURITY OFFICIAL TOLD HIM SEPT 28 THAT SARG WAS CONVINCED FATAH LEADERSHIP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAST

SUNDAY'S ATTACK ON SEMIRAMI MTOTEL. WHILE SYRIANS INITIALLY ATTACKED IRAQ FOR TRAINING AND SPONSORING GUERRILLAS INVOLVED, THEY DO NOT NOW ACCEPT THAT OPERATION HAD BEEN SOLELY DONE AT INSTIGATION

BAGHDLD-BASED ABU NIDAL FACTION.

SYRIAN SECURITY IFFICER TOLD LIBYAN AMBASSADOR THAT THEY HAD SOLID INFORMATION FROM JORDANIA INTELL-IGENCE THAT

ABU IYAD, (FATAH'(G NUMBER TWO, SALAH KHALAF) HAD RECENTLY MET WITH ABU NIDAL AND EFFETED A RECONCILIATION WITH CALTTER AND HIS SPLINTER MOVEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM FATAH LAST YEAR.

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2. COMMENT:

FOREGOING MAY EXPLAIN SYRIWO MEDIA'S INCREASINGLY BLUNT CALLS
OMASATAH MEMBERSHIP TO DEMAND A CHANGE IN ITS
LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH ARAFAT HAS YET TO BE NAMED PERSONALLY
ITS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SEMIRAMIS INCIDENT, OFFICIALLY
INSPIRED PRESS ARTICLES HOE COME CLOSE TO MAKING SQISMF
ACCUSATION.

3. LIBYAN'S REPORT IS ALSO OF INTEREST IN LIGHT IT
SHEDS ON NATURE OF JORDANIAN-SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE
LIAISON AND TRUST SYRIANS ARE APPARENTLY WILLING TO
PLACE ON JORDANAINS.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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